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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Food Situation in the Russian Zone

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a meeting was held

of discussing the precarious food situation in the Russian zone, which has reached dangerous proportions.

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2. The following points emerged from the discussions:

- a. Meat. No ways and means could be found to fill the gap in the meat and fat supply. It is true that 51,000 tons of meat vere actually collected during the third quarter of the planning period, but this included 23,000 tons advance collection for the fourth quarter. This means that meat rations for the fourth quarter will have to be taken from 1949 quotas.
- b. Animal stocks. The number of pigs, as compared to 1947 stocks, has decreased 44%, while the number of cattle decreased 2%. This is partly due to the fact that, on account of the very algorially quota, there is a tendency among farmers to get rid of milk cows. On the other hand, the number of goats, which are exempt of quotas, has increased greatly, for instance in Mecklenburg by 500%
- Planting. There was general agreement that many farmers are sabotaging the production plan and that the present control system is ir adequate to insure that farmers actually carry out instructions. In Mecklenburg, for instance, 15,000 hectares of land should have been planted with rape; however, since farmers of this part of Germany know little about rape oil, only 9,000 hectares of land were actually planted with rape.
- Potatoes. During the ration period 1948/1949, Petrovillicators of potatoes will be required to cover the needs of the Soviet zone portlation. The government hopes that it will be able to collect 3.8 million tons of potatoes and that the remaining 200,000 tons can be bought on the free market from production in excess of prescribed quotas. This not only defeats the purpose of the "freien Spitzen" which were meant to serve as an improvement, 1.e.

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increase, of food rations, but will make it necessary for the government to may a price three times as high as normally.

- e. Bread. During the third quarter 1948, the bread supply has come to a standstill. Although this is due to the fact that large quantities of grain and flour were requisitioned for the supply of Berlin, millers and bakers are now held responsible for this situation and have been accused of profiteering.
- f. Imports. It was disclosed that no important imports from eastern Europe can be expected.

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